

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank Examiner Steadman for the telephone interviews, wherein the Examiner suggested amendments to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 13 and 15 have been amended to cancel the hybridization language as suggested by the Examiner. Support can be found in the claims as filed.

The amendment to claims 13 and 15 was made solely for the purpose of expediting allowance. In the event that the amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance and the appeal is maintained, Applicants desire to reinstate the appeal with claims 13 and 15 as they stood prior to the instant amendment.

No new matter has been added.

Withdrawn claims 2-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on any cancelled subject matter.

Claims 1, 13 and 15 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

CONCLUSION

Since the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Naoki MIDOH et al.

By: *Jay F. Williams*

Jay F. Williams
Registration No. 48,036
Attorney for Applicants

JFW/akl
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 13, 2006